Secondary runway at Indira Gandhi International Airport

613. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indira Gandhi International Airport does not have a secondary runway, it is prone to develop cracks in the apron, taxi tracks and in the fly-over which leads to departure area;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor: and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to remove these defects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) to (c) The Indira Gandhi International Airport has a Secondary runway. At times, cracks develop on the surface of apron, taxi track and fly-over. These appear due to usage over a period of time and the seasonal temperature variations. These are repaired/sealed from time to time.

Nuclear Part between Russia and USA

614. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russia and U.S.A. have agreed to sign another Nuclear Pact; and

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be signed and what are the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) No Sir.

However, the leaders of the United States of America and the Soviet Union have agreed in principle to negotiate a Treaty to bring about a 50 per cent reduction of their strategic nuclear weapon. These negotiations have been continuing since the US—Soviet bilateral arms reduction talks resumed in Geneva in March, 1985. A number of issues still remain to be resolved. It is, therefore not possible to say when the proposed treaty is likely to be signed.

Comments of opposition leaders of Sri Lanka on Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement

615. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian High Commissioner in Colombo Sri J. N. Dixit had told a Colombo publication that in private conversation neither Mrs. Sirimavo Bhandarnaike, the SLFP leader and former Prime Minister nor her son Mr. Anura Bhandarnaike, the leader of the Opposition in Sri Lanka Parliament, had ever told him that they would abrogate the Indo-Sri Lanka Peace Agreement if the SLFP came to power; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that this had led to a sharp public reaction from both Mrs. Bhandarnaike and Mr. Anura Bhandarnaike and they have charged the Indian High Commissioner with blatant interference in the internal politics of Sri Lanka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Seat availability in the Indian Airlines

616. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the availability of seats in Indian Airlines is likely to be increased with the induction of three 737 Boeing planes, shortly;

(b) if so, the routes on which these flights would be introduced; and

(c) to what extent the growing shortage of planes in the country will be met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Formulation of schedules with additional leased aircraft is still in process.

(c) After induction of four B-737 aircraft, Indian Airlines will have shortage of capacity by one Airbus and three B-737 aircraft.

Dharna by women hostelers

617. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the 1st September, 1988, 300 working women hosteliers went in a procession to Boat Club and staged a dharna, if so, whether they submitted any representation to Government; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action Government have taken to solve their grievances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The major demands of the residents of Working Women Hostel of All India Women's Conference (AIWC) are given below:—

1. Stoppage of conversion of bedrooms of Kamala House Hostel into a Guest House.

2. Scrapping of the rule limiting the stay in the Working Women's Hostel to three years.

3. Scrapping of arbitrary powers with the Management to throw out the residents without notice.

4. Right to participate in All India Women's Conference (AIWC) Management.

5. Right to vote in the election of the All India Wowen's Conference.

6. Scrapping the system of charging of caution money.

7. Proper maintenance of the Hostel.

8. Forum for discussions of problems with the Management.

The demands have been examined with reference to the Scheme of assistance for construction of hostel buildings for working women with Day-care Centre and the Rules and Regulations of the AIWC Working Women's Hostel. The All India Women's Conference has been given certain directions. The position is as follows:—

1. The All India Women's Conference has informed the Government that there is no move to convert Kamala House Hostel into a Guest House.

2. As per the provisions of the Department's Scheme of assistance for construction of hostel buildings for working women with Day-care Centre, a resident can be allowed to stay in Working Women's Hostels for a period of three years extendable upto a period of five years.

3. The Rules and Regulations of All India Women's Conference provide that the Head of the Department may terminate residentship by giving one week's notice.

4. As per the provisions of the Department's Scheme the residents are to be given representation on the Hostel Management Committee.

5. Right to vote in the elections of the All India Women's Conference is not Government's responsibility.

6. The AIWC has clarified that Caution Money is refundable on leaving the Hostel.

7. Hostel Management Committee oversees the proper maintenance of the Hostel

8. The Conference has assured that the meeting with residents of the Hostel will be held from time to time to discuss their problems and take suitable action, wherever necessary.